

responsible for more than 50% of pornography. According to Mr. Keith, 83% of the children in pornographic films are 6 to 12 years of age, 39% are 3-5 years old and 20% are less than the age of three. Mr. Keith indicated that so-called "stranger danger" affects only about 4% of abused kids; the other 96% are abused by a member of the family or a trusted adult. He described a study of 62 prisoners who were given amnesty on any additional charges to discuss their crimes. Over 80% of the offenders admitted to assaulting more than 27 children each. Mr. Keith said there are more than 750,000 traffickers in pornography, and the use of a computer program that allows law enforcement to analyze computer hard drives has resulted in the rescue of a child 40% of the time. However, due to manpower and money shortages only about 2% of leads result in a full investigation and the percentage of leads that eventually result in a conviction is even lower, generally because of plea bargains.

The Committee heard from **Mr. Bob Carbo, Co-Director of the Sex Offender Accountability and Responsibility (SOAR) program for the N.C. Department of Correction.** The SOAR Program provides treatment of incarcerated sexual offenders. Through the program participants learn that sexually abusive behavior is both controllable and manageable. The SOAR program, which is strictly voluntary, is located at the Harnett Correctional Institution in Lillington. Of more than 250 applicants only 60 per year are admitted due to staff & space shortage.

Emily Johnson, Committee Co-Counsel, presented draft legislation for consideration by the Committee. The legislation addresses the definition of a "residence" and a "temporary residence" and creates a new criminal offense for the failure to report a temporary residential address. The new criminal offense would be punishable as a Class F felony. The new criminal penalties would only apply to offenses which occurring on or after December 1, 2009. The proposed legislation was discussed and approved by the Committee.

December 18, 2008

The House Select Committee on Sex Offender Issues held its third meeting on December 18, 2008.

The Committee heard from **Mr. Kevin West, Special Agent in Charge, of the SBI Computer Crimes Unit/NC Internet Crimes against Children (ICAC).** Mr. West discussed the sources of information about Computer Crimes, including requests from local agencies, requests from federal partners, the Cyber-tip line, undercover operations and referrals from other ICAC units across the country. There are 60 National ICAC Task Forces and 70 local, State and Federal partners. Referrals on the Cyber-tip line are made by Internet companies (which are required to do so) and members of the public. Agent West described a typical cyber-tip case from receipt of the information to the issuance of a subpoena, then verification and research to the summary and assignment to